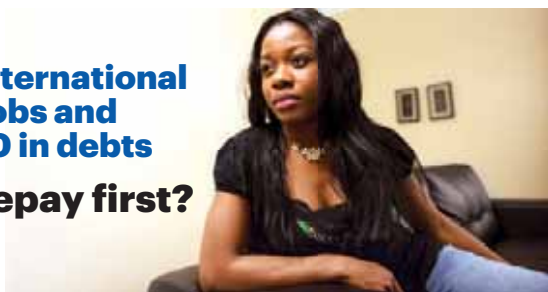


Annick, 24, is an international student with two jobs and more than \$61,000 in debts

What does she repay first?

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THE BIG SPILL



**We've got details
about a legal spat
between the
Ottawa Convention
Centre and the
Wine and Food
Festival**

metroNEWS

Bias 'built into the fabric of the system'

INDIGENOUS ISSUES

**Police role key
in missing and
murdered women
inquiry: Advocates**



**Emma
Jackson**
Metro|Ottawa

A national inquiry that ignores the role of provincial police forces would be "significantly weakened," Indigenous women's advocates say.

Forty participants joined international human rights experts this weekend to discuss the design of the federal government's inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Real change, they said, will only be possible if the inquiry — set to launch this spring — goes beyond the federal government's role to include provincial and territorial issues, particularly police "bias."

"Policing and corrections are a significant contributor to the lack of safety for aboriginal women and girls," Dawn Lavell-Harvard, president of the Native Women's Association of Canada, said Sunday during a symposium at the University of Ottawa.

"We have to shine a light on that."

Police forces across the country were historically used as an "instru-

ment of government" to enforce federal policies, including removing children from their families to live in residential schools, Lavell-Harvard said.

They've also been accused of downplaying or under-investigating cases of murdered and missing Indigenous women, and one recent report found police officers using photos of Indigenous women for target practice, according to Sharon McIvor, with the Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action (CFAFIA).

All of this, McIvor said, points to biases that are "built into the fabric of the system that make aboriginal women less important to the police."

But, if the national inquiry only looks at the federal government's role in widespread violence against Indigenous women, those issues will go unresolved.

"We need ... to look at the full scope of what the problem is here and find the solutions that will really solve the problems that we're facing," said Shelagh Day, who chairs the CFAFIA human rights committee.

Approximately 1,200 Indigenous women have been murdered or gone missing in the past 30 years. The Liberal government promised to order a national inquiry immediately after its election last fall.

It is now conducting consultations with families and community leaders ahead of the launch.



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ORLEANS Major crime unit probes fire incident



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa police's major crime unit is investigating after police arrested one person following a morning fire in a townhouse complex in Orleans.

Ottawa Fire Services received multiple 911 calls just before 7:40 a.m. reporting fire and smoke in a home at 3275 St. Joseph Blvd. Sunday morning. Officials say "multiple fire victims" were rescued by firefighters.

The fire spread into the roof of the multi-unit building, and the call was upgraded to a three-alarm fire.

Police say there was an "incident" in one unit prior to the fire starting, and the blaze is being treated as suspicious.

Ottawa fire said three residents were injured. One firefighter was also injured.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Firefighters responded to a blaze Sunday morning. COURTESY SCOTT STILLBORN/OTTAWA FIRE SERVICES

Player welfare program launched after tragedy

RUGBY Parents of Rowan Stringer get the word out on concussions

Taking a hit and staying in the game is a gutsy quality long valued in contact sports, and it's something that is encouraged — overtly and otherwise — in athletes from an early age.

But the more medical science learns about sports injuries and how the human brain functions, it has become clear that with some hits, the right thing to do is walk off the field and head to the bench.

But getting athletes and coaches to recognize that requires increased awareness about the dangers of untreated brain injuries and a culture shift within contact sports, Rugby Canada officials say.

The national sport body's new player welfare program — spurred by the death of Ottawa high school rugby captain Rowan Stringer — aims to do both.

PlaySmart, launched Saturday at the national rugby conference, requires all club coaches and officials to complete World Rugby's online modules about safety and concussion management annually and recommends everyone else involved in rugby,



Gord and Kathleen Stringer, whose 17-year-old daughter Rowan died from a head injury in 2013, address Rugby Canada Conference members Saturday. RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

including athletes and parents, also complete them.

Stringer died after landing hard on her head during a match in May 2013. She was 17.

A coroner's inquest determined that two other hits to her head in the week prior to that fatal one contributed to her death from second impact syndrome.

Stringer, like many athletes, downplayed the first two knocks to her head and con-

tinued to play despite concussion-like symptoms. She knew just enough about concussions that she did not tell her parents or coach about how she was feeling for fear they wouldn't let her play in the upcoming game.

She likely didn't realize the risk she was taking. And neither did her friends at John McCrae Secondary School in Ottawa, who researched the subject of concussions with her before that final game but didn't come

across any information on the danger of playing with a concussion.

Her parents hope that PlaySmart — combined with Rowan's Law, which is working its way through the provincial legislature — will ensure youngsters will have access to that kind of information.

"It needs to start with the education of kids, and when they're young," Gord Stringer said.

They point to their older

daughter, 23-year-old Cassie, who was raised in an era of anti-drunk driving campaigns and would never consider driving after drinking.

"It becomes part of what they do, looking after themselves and each other," Kathleen Stringer said.

That's what they hope Rowan's Law, which could be voted on before the summer, will do for concussion awareness.

If passed, Rowan's Law would mandate concussion education in Ontario's school curriculum and do more to ensure that young athletes who suffer concussions are identified and don't return to play until they've received medical clearance.

The Stringers spoke of their assertive daughter, who had "a gleam in her eye" when she played rugby, to a ballroom full of rugby coaches and officials from across the country just before PlaySmart was launched.

The Stringers have never blamed anyone for their daughter's death, and were in fact horrified when a parent came up to them after her funeral to say she'd brought her son to show how dangerous rugby was so he'd never want to play.

"It's not about wrapping your kids in bubbles — it's about making sure they're aware of the consequences of what can happen and how to take care of themselves," Gord Stringer said.

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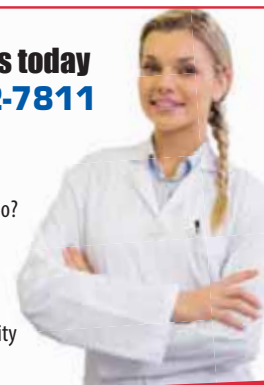
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5 THINGS TO WATCH AT CITY HALL THIS WEEK

Shopping in the Glebe on a holiday, a mosquito-killing levy and a visit from Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi — here's what's happening at city hall.

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa



1 That annoying buzz in Kanata

A city councillor wants to do something about the pesky mosquitoes terrorizing her ward. Kanata North Coun. Marianne Wilkinson is proposing a special levy of \$35 per household to pay for a biological treatment — *Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis*, or Bti — to destroy the stomachs and larvae of mosquitoes. She's also asking her constituents to vote on this neighbourhood tax. All this will go before the finance and economic development committee on Tuesday.

2 Holiday shopping in the Glebe?

Glebe stores may soon be able to open doors on statutory holidays. The finance and economic development committee will consider granting the neighbourhood an exemption under a provincial law, the Retail Business Holidays Act. Businesses that do not comply face fines of up to \$50,000. Last year, Whole Foods at Lansdowne Park stayed open on Good Friday, anyway.

3 Cyclist collision report

The city is doing an in-depth study of collisions in the hope of improving pedestrian and cyclist safety. This has been done before; you might remember the "Stay Safe, Stay Back" campaign, meant to educate cyclists and truck drivers about blind spots. A new campaign this spring will focus on pedestrian safety. The transportation committee will receive a report on the subject this Wednesday, but Ottawans can expect to see the results of a 10-year review on fatal collisions within the next two months.

4 Airport parking signs

City staff are looking to resolve a battle over illegal private airport parking signs. In 2014, the city heard complaints about the 19 Park 'N Fly signs installed on city road allowances, which goes against the rules. Although it was grandfathered in, competing airport parking company AutoParc n Jet argued it was unfair. City staff are proposing all the existing signs stay, so long as they are either replaced with different colours or are set back so they don't blend in with the airport terminal signs. This will go before the transportation committee on Wednesday.



5 Nenshi comes to town

Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi is the guest speaker at the mayor's regular business networking breakfast series on Thursday. His topic: "The importance of market access for Canada's energy industry."



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WINTER

Residents raise icy legion of snowmen for world record

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

They've done it again: Ottawa managed on Sunday to beat the Guinness World Record for the most snowmen built in one hour.

Hundreds of people gathered at TD Place and managed to construct 2,069 snowmen — each had to clear three feet and have eyes, a nose and arms. The previous record of 2,038 was held by Japan.

The Cracking-Up the Capital team organized the challenge to kick-start its week-long comedy festival.

"We wanted an opportunity for the entire community to come together and do something that was no cost and fun to do," said John Helmky, executive producer of the festival. "When we saw the TD field filled up with snow last year, we thought, 'Why not do something with it?'"

Participants said the snow quality "could have been better," but the mild temperatures were an improvement over the previous year's challenge.

"It's winter, it's fun and it's the perfect temperature," said



Hundreds of people came out to TD Place on Sunday to construct snowmen and beat a world record. **HALEY RITCHIE/METRO**

Greta Chase, a teacher at Lester B. Pearson High School, who came to help out after snowshoeing. "Why wouldn't I want to build some snowmen?"

The challenge also raised funds for six local mental-health charities, including the Wabano Centre, Causeway, Do It For Daron, the Amethyst Centre, Partners for Mental Health and the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre.

“

We wanted an opportunity for the entire community to come together and do something that was no cost and fun to do.

John Helmky

Uncorked: Documents show spat between venue, festival

metr EXCLUSIVE

Convention centre suing for \$156K in damages



Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

An ugly legal spat is threatening to put a cork in Ottawa's popular wine and food show.

Recently filed court documents allege Shaw Centre management has for years been trying to force the popular festival from its downtown venue over what it claims are a "litany" of operational problems — including drunk servers, fights and even people urinating on the floor.

It appears things came to a head after the most recent event, and now the company that runs the convention centre and the owner of the festival are embroiled in a messy legal dispute.

The Ottawa Convention Centre Corporation has filed a lawsuit in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in which it is seeking \$156,476 plus interest in damages from Treefort Hip Productions, which is the company that owns the Ottawa Wine and Food Festival.

In its statement of claim, filed Dec. 10, 2015, the convention centre alleges Treefort failed to pay the licensing fee for the 2015 event, which was held at the Shaw Centre from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1.

The most recent festival — which marked the event's 30th

year — was "especially problematic," says an affidavit filed Jan. 6 by Dan Young, the convention centre's vice-president and chief operating officer.

The event was marred by "over-pouring of alcohol by exhibitors, intoxication, crowd control issues, instances of theft, intoxicated exhibitors, urination on the show floor and vomiting," Young alleges in the affidavit.

"The show degenerated to the point where we received an email from the Ottawa Police Service."

But, in an unusual twist, Treefort fired back with a lawsuit of its own, in which the company is seeking close to \$10 million in damages from the convention centre, which is a provincial Crown agency.

Treefort alleges the convention centre has caused "irreparable harm" and its "high handed and oppressive" conduct hurt the company's business.

None of the allegations on either side have been tested in court.

Treefort has also asked the court for an injunction to stop the convention centre from booking any dates in the first two weekends of November for the next five years to anyone beside the wine and food show.

Treefort claims the convention centre is not entitled to the 2015 licensing fee because it allegedly breached an apparent long-standing and formal agreement between the two

sides — which the company says caused its business to suffer.

According to Treefort, that agreement stipulated the convention centre would not host competing food and beverage shows 60 days before and 60 days after the wine and food show.

The convention centre violated this agreement, Treefort alleges, by booking what it calls a competing food-related event — Privé's 613 Night Market — in the weeks leading up to the 2014 edition of the wine and food show.

Treefort also claims the convention centre agreed to set aside the first two weekends in November for the wine and food show.

But in its court filings, the convention centre claims no such agreement exists.

"This is nonsense," Young says in his affidavit.

Since the festival was only a "second priority" event, the convention centre agreed to contracts with the festival's producer, Joan Culliton, no more than a year in advance, Young says, adding that he made it clear to her that "fixed dates cannot be guaranteed."

The convention centre alleges there have been problems with the wine and food show going back to 2011 — but says it agreed to work with Culliton to keep the show afloat.

All this legal wrangling has cast doubt over this

year's event. The convention centre says it has already booked other events for the first two weekends of November and it would be breaking its commitments if the court grants Treefort's request to set aside early November dates until 2020 for the wine and food show.

Superior Court Justice Julianne Parfett is scheduled to hear Treefort's motion later this month.

The convention centre isn't saying much about the legal quarrel.

"Commercial disputes are always unfortunate circumstances," Nina Kressler, the convention centre's president and CEO, said in an email.

"This matter is before the courts and we have no comments to add on the specifics of the proceedings."

But the festival's organizers are adamant there will still be a food and wine show at the convention centre in November, despite Young's assertion that "we have no interest currently in renting space to Treefort for the OWFF" and the festival should consider other venues.

Treefort says in court filings that the festival is "not compatible outside of the downtown core" and the company risks an "existential business crisis" if the Shaw Centre is not available this year.

"The festival will go ahead in either the first or the second weekend of November as it always has," Culliton told Metro.

"We've enjoyed a long and successful relationship with the convention centre. We're reviewing and trying to come to a common understanding on various aspects of that relationship."

She also downplayed the alleged problems at the most recent festival, and says this year's event will have an "extensive" security reporting system in place.

66

The festival will go ahead in either the first or the second weekend of November as it always has.

Joan Culliton

"There was over 20,000 welcomed to the festival," Culliton said. "There were five security incidents. We don't look at that as a major measure or issue."

The show degenerated to the point where we received an email from the Ottawa Police Service.

Dan Young in an affidavit

COURT FILINGS

Allegations swirling around wine and food show

Each side has made a number of allegations — none of which have been tested in court.

What is the convention centre alleging?

Dan Young, who is an executive with the Ottawa Convention Centre Corporation, alleges there have been problems with the wine and food festival going back to 2011 — the year the convention centre re-opened after a three-year renovation.

The convention centre alleges:

- There was "rowdiness, security issues, fighting, drunkenness, and other problems that

we do not want to have at the Shaw Centre" at the festival's 2011 edition.

- The 2012 edition of the festival was "problematic" for reasons not spelled out in the court document, and as a result the convention centre and Treefort entered into a memorandum of understanding to "set the parameters of the relationship."
- The 2013 and 2014 festivals were also "problematic."
- The 2015 event was "especially problematic." The convention centre alleges there were thefts, intoxicated exhibitors, and people who urinated on the show floor and vomited.

- Ottawa police emailed the convention centre to raise safety concerns about the 2015 event, including fighting and crowd control problems.
- There were 24 documented instances of over-pouring, according to the 2015 Ottawa Wine and Food Festival Incident Report during the first two days of the event.
- Festival producer Joan Culliton failed to pay in advance for the space.
- Treefort still owes another company, Freeman, \$50,000 in "material handling and IT services" for the 2015 event.

What is Treefort alleging?

Treefort Hip Productions alleges the Ottawa Convention Centre Corporation has been trying to force the Ottawa Wine and Food Festival out of the Shaw Centre since 2011.

- In 2011, the convention centre hiked the rental and operational charges by 400 per cent for the following year's event. "Treefort had no choice but to agree to the new onerous terms of business as dictated by the Convention Centre."
- In 2012, the convention centre "abruptly" refused entrance to attendees who had already purchased tickets even

though the occupancy limit had not been met. "This caused substantial financial losses for Treefort and damaged the festival's reputation."

- In 2013, the convention centre imposed "arbitrary and demanding conditions" on Treefort, including hiking ticket prices by 25 per cent.
- In 2014, the documents say the convention centre hosted three "competing" events in the month leading up to the 2014 OWFF, including one called the "International Food & Drink Soiree."
- Prior to the 2015 festival, the convention centre informed

Treefort that the preferred dates were not available and the wine and food festival would have to take place during the Halloween weekend.

"The hosting of the festival over the Halloween weekend caused a drastic decline in ticket sales, the cancellation of several exhibitors and the festival losing out on full payment under its sponsorship agreements. A number of exhibitors have sought compensation from Treefort due to lower attendance and the festival had to abandon a planned price increase for exhibitor space for 2016."

JOE LOFARO/METRO



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Bottled water is distributed to residents of Flint, Mich., on Saturday. THE FLINT JOURNAL-MLIVE.COM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lead in Canadian water pipes, too, experts warn

HEALTH

About 60,000 households have unsafe service lines

Water-toxicity experts estimate that about 10 per cent of Canadians are at risk of being exposed to lead through their drinking water as Americans in Flint, Mich., grapple with an ongoing water scandal.

Research funded by the Canadian Water Network estimates that about 60,000 households in major cities across the coun-

try still have lead service lines connecting the home to the municipal water supply.

Senior researcher Graham Gagnon says each member of those households could find themselves consuming lead.

Gagnon, director for the Centre of Water Resources Studies at Dalhousie University, says lead service lines can also be present in smaller communities and in larger buildings such as schools. Exposure could also come about through buildings using fixtures, faucets or other components containing lead.

But Gagnon and others say Canada's cities have recognized



A resident uses bottled water to wash her three-week-old son at their home in Flint, Mich. THE DETROIT NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the risks and made a concerted effort to decrease the number of lead pipes in their systems in recent years.

Gagnon believes such efforts may protect those cities from the sort of lead poisoning crisis unfolding in Flint, though he adds communities that haven't launched replacement projects are at greater risk.

Bu Lam, manager of municipal programs at the Canadian Water Network, said communities built before 1950 are far more likely to have used lead in either their municipal water mains or the service lines connecting them to local buildings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SHARING ECONOMY

Feds examine challenges of peer-to-peer transactions

Companies like Uber and Airbnb were the subject of a quiet in-depth study by high-ranking federal bureaucrats, Torstar News Service has learned.

A committee of five deputy ministers and a team of analysts undertook a comprehensive study of the so-called sharing economy and its implications for Canadian policymakers and consumers.

The study, delivered to the committee in February 2015, found significant challenges for government regulation of the notoriously slippery and ever-expanding industry of ride-sharing, apartment renting and

“In most cases, sharing-economy companies do not provide insurance, benefits or training to their workers.”

Extract from the report

other peer-to-peer transactions.

The report listed three broad areas of concern: the economy, labour and social issues and “privacy, health and safety.”

Its authors noted that Can-

ada's social safety net — including the employment insurance and old age security systems — may need to be “redesigned” to meet the needs of sharing-economy workers. Likewise, the risk of unreported income from those workers could lead to tax compliance issues and a hit to social services.

But the deputy ministers were also cautioned against attempting to overregulate the industry because it could stifle the rapid innovation in the field, and because it could push the sharing economy “fully outside the government's control.”

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Medical pot producers eye ad rule changes

Some of Canada's biggest producers of medical marijuana want Ottawa to implement advertising regulations similar to those that govern the sale of alcohol, as they await the Liberal government's long-promised legal recreational market.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Avalanche deaths don't deter snowmobilers

The day after an avalanche killed five snowmobilers in eastern British Columbia, riders returned to the backcountry wilderness.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. divided ahead of Iowa

POLITICS

State caucus vote a snapshot of gulf between parties, public

You hear Adam Khan talk about himself and think America maybe isn't so divided after all.

Then you hear him talk about America. Khan, 24, is the son of a Pakistani immigrant father and a white mother. Last year, he was elected chairman of the Republican Party in a key swing county in Nevada. He is a young brown man with Muslim heritage — and a supporter of gay marriage — rising fast in the domain of older white conservatives.

Republican front-runner Donald Trump, Khan said, is threatening to make the party more welcoming to bigots than minorities. His Reno-area community, meanwhile, is more politically polarized than ever.

"The Democrats blame (George W.) Bush for everything. The Republicans blame Obama for everything," he said. "And it just perpetuates the divide."

The voting phase of a rollick-



Campaign volunteers listen as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks during a campaign event on Jan. 31, in Waterloo, Iowa. **Sanders continues to seek support for the Democratic nomination prior to the Iowa caucus on Feb. 1.** ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

ing presidential primary begins on Monday, when Iowa's Republicans and Democrats pack gymnasiums for their party caucuses.

It's not just that Republicans and Democrats disagree on how to solve pressing problems; they disagree on what the problems even are. They have starkly different desires about where to live and how to live.

"All the data that we have suggests that, today, things are much more polarized than they have been at any point at least over the last 80 years," said Jocelyn Kiley, associate director of research for the polling organization Pew Research.

President Barack Obama campaigned as a unifying healer. Over his seven years in office,

the gulf between the parties has grown far wider — both in the way their politicians vote and in the way their supporters feel.

Democrat Hillary Clinton, seeking to fend off a challenge from left-winger Bernie Sanders, has offered an unabashedly liberal platform incompatible with her reputation for cautious centrism. Trump, though not



Adam Khan CONTRIBUTED

an orthodox conservative, has taken the field far to the right on immigration and terrorism; Ted Cruz has done the same on other issues.

Republican voters press their candidates on threats to their safety and to the Constitution. Democratic voters ask theirs about the dangers of climate change and income inequality. Town halls held in the same Iowa counties sound like they are taking place in different countries.

"The divide is great," said Jeff Jorgensen, Republican chairman in Iowa's Pottawattamie County. "It's almost a divide that can't be bridged." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TURKEY

Omar Khadr's sister detained

Zaynab Khadr, the outspoken sister of former Guantanamo detainee Omar Khadr, is in custody in Turkey, Torstar News Services has learned.



Zaynab Khadr TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Khadr had moved to Turkey around the time her younger brother Omar was transferred from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to Canada in September 2012. She reportedly remarried and had two young children.

She and her mother, Maha El-sammah, came under criticism in Canada for remarks they made for a March 2004 CBC documentary titled Al Qaeda Family.

In 2005, Zaynab Khadr was under investigation for terrorism offences by the RCMP, but was never charged. It is not known if the Canadian-born Khadr is being held in Turkey for a criminal or immigration matter.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SYRIA

Bombings cloud UN peace talks

A triple bombing killed dozens in a predominantly Shiite suburb south of the Syrian capital of Damascus on Sunday even as a UN mediator held his first meeting with members of the main opposition group that seeks progress on humanitarian issues before joining formal talks on ending the five-year civil war.

The attacks were claimed by militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and Syria's delegate to the UN-sponsored peace talks said the violence confirmed the connection between "terrorism" and "some political groups" — a reference to those who oppose President

Bashar Assad.

The blasts went off in the Damascus suburb of Sayda Zeinab, about 600 metres from one of the holiest shrines for Shiite Muslims. Syria's state news agency SANA said the attackers detonated a car bomb at a bus stop and that two suicide bombers then set off more explosives as rescuers rushed to the area.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based opposition group that monitors the

conflict, said at least 63 people were killed.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry appealed to both sides "to seize the opportunity for serious negotiations."

"There is no military solution to this conflict," Kerry said. "Without negotiations, the bloodshed will drag on until ... virtually every home, every form of infrastructure, and every semblance of civilization is destroyed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



There is no military solution to this conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry

TANZANIA

British pilot killed by poachers

Elephant poachers in Tanzania fired on a helicopter on an anti-poaching mission and killed the British pilot, and authorities said Sunday that they have arrested three suspects.

Roger Gower was shot Friday while flying on a joint operation with Tanzanian wildlife authorities who were tracking the poachers, the Friedkin Conservation Fund, which oversees some wildlife areas in Tanzania, said on its website.

"This tragic event again highlights the appalling risk and cost

of protecting Tanzania's wildlife," the Texas-based group said.

Three suspects were arrested, said Jumanne Maghembe, Tanzania's minister for tourism and natural resources. The minister pledged that any other suspects will be arrested in security operations after the attack in Maswa wildlife reserve, near Serengeti National Park.

A co-pilot survived with injuries, Tanzanian authorities said.

Britain's Foreign Office confirmed the death of a Briton in Tanzania and said it was "pro-

viding assistance to the family at this difficult time."

Rangers discovered the carcasses of three elephants that were killed by the same group of poachers that fired on the helicopter, said Paschal Shelute, spokesman for Tanzania's parks service.

Tanzania has been identified as a key hot spot for elephant poachers. The elephant population declined by 60 per cent to about 40,000 since 2009, according to a census announced last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EX-RADIO HOST BACK IN SPOTLIGHT

Judge may consider 'similar fact' cases as Jian Ghomeshi's trial begins Monday

Crown attorneys prosecuting sexual assault cases often present numerous individual allegations that resemble each other in the hope that a judge will determine they represent "similar fact" evidence.

"Absent evidence of collusion, you start to wonder if they are telling the same story because the accused is doing it," said John Rosen, one of Canada's leading criminal defence lawyers.

Rosen, a criminal lawyer for 46 years, has no involvement in the case but was asked by the Torstar News Service to comment on the process of a criminal trial of this kind.

The trial of Jian Ghomeshi begins Monday at Old City Hall court in Toronto. Three women will testify that he sexually assaulted them (in one case, a charge of choking-overcome resistance has been added) between 2002 and 2003.

Ghomeshi has pleaded not guilty to the charges. Previously, the former Q host has said that all of his sexual activities with women have been entirely "consensual," and in a Facebook post



Jian Ghomeshi makes his way through a mob of media with his lawyer Marie Henein at a Toronto court on Nov. 26, 2014. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

he blamed a jilted lover (who is not part of the proceedings) for spreading lies about him.

In a trial with multiple complainants, Rosen explained that after they have told their stories under oath, the judge may be

asked by the Crown to make a ruling on whether they are "similar fact" cases. If the judge rules they are, Rosen said "that lends corroboration to the complainants."

While an accused does not

have to testify, Rosen said the presentation of three individual cases may tip the scales and encourage Ghomeshi to present his side of the story.

That's because, Rosen explained, the "Supreme Court

of Canada has said that where you have a complainant who comes forward and testifies and there is no countervailing story coming from the defence, then the trial judge has to look at the credibility of the complainant." Rosen said that if there is no testimony from the accused, and "the trial judge accepts the credibility of the complainant, then it's a downward slide to conviction."

In a sexual assault case, particularly one with no additional evidence, Rosen said it often comes down to which side is believed.

"It's an intimate event. Two people, where nobody else is around. Those two really know what happened."

He said that it can sometimes be in the best interest of the accused to testify, particularly if it appears the trial judge is accepting the credibility of the complainants.

That's when a defence lawyer may put the client on the stand.

Even if the accused's evidence just raises a reasonable doubt, the judge must acquit," Rosen said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ TIMELINE

Here are some key dates in Jian Ghomeshi's case.

■ Oct. 24, 2014:

The CBC announces it has cut ties with Ghomeshi.

■ Oct. 27, 2014:

The Toronto Star publishes a report detailing allegations from three women who say Ghomeshi was physically violent to them without their consent before or during sexual encounters.

■ Nov. 1, 2014

Toronto police say they are investigating Ghomeshi after two women come forward with complaints.

■ Nov. 26, 2014

Five sexual assault-related charges are laid against Ghomeshi.

■ Oct. 1, 2015

Ghomeshi pleads not guilty to all five charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEXUAL ASSAULT CASES

Convictions 'difficult': Experts

As the trial of disgraced broadcaster Jian Ghomeshi puts the issues of consent and sexual harassment in the national spotlight this week, legal experts caution that convictions in cases of historic sexual assaults are not easy to secure.

Ghomeshi's alleged offences date as far back as 2002, and legal experts say the passing of time often poses a significant challenge to winning a conviction in such cases.

"The obvious answer is just the degradation of evidence," said Karen Bellehumeur, a former Crown prosecutor who dealt frequently with sexual assault cases. "Not only has the memory of the survivor of the abuse degraded so that peripheral details are not as clear, but also there is no longer the corroborating evidence to be investigated by police."

Such evidence could include DNA, observations about injuries or damaged clothing, and witnesses, Bellehumeur said, noting that with little physical evidence, such cases typically boil down to a "he said, she said" scenario, especially when the accused and complainants know each other. The issue of consent in those cases, she said, becomes a key element.

"The main problem is that when you have a case that's

just one word against the other, which tends to happen more in historic cases ... then a criminal case has just such a high standard of proof that it becomes very difficult," Bellehumeur said. "Unless there's a real disparity between the believability of the complainant over the accused then it's going to be very difficult for the Crown to prove a case beyond a reasonable doubt."

One positive aspect of dated sexual assault cases, however,

ant has very strong rights to present a full defence, it can become difficult."

And even with plenty of testimony, sexual assault cases can often still fall short of convictions due to a lack of definitive evidence to show a crime occurred, Mathen said.

"You can have the complainants be sexually assaulted in the sense that she has experienced a violation, and yet the accused is found not guilty because he didn't appreciate that fact," she said.



The complainant's credibility really stands and falls on her testimony, her demeanour.

Law professor Carissima Mathen

is that the announcement of charges against an accused can prompt other complainants to come forward, which in turn can help the prosecution, Bellehumeur added.

Complainants who take the witness stand, however, will be grilled by the defence who will be seeking to punch holes in their story.

"The complainant's credibility really stands and falls on her testimony, her demeanour," said University of Ottawa law professor Carissima Mathen. "Because the defend-

It's not that Canadian sexual assault laws are lacking, said one law professor, noting that on paper, they are among the best in the world.

"There are two problems with Canadian sexual assault law — one is proof beyond a reasonable doubt and that's not going to change," said University of Manitoba law professor Karen Busby. "The other problem is continuing reluctance of some judges to resist the law reform efforts made in the '90s."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Our whole society is on trial with Ghomeshi. Finally.

Today, Jian Ghomeshi will sit in a chair where very few alleged sexual abusers find themselves: in court.

Getting him there took an incredible feat.

In Canada, only about 0.5 per cent of sexual assaults result in court proceedings. And only about 0.2 per cent end in convictions (according to calculations made from 2014 and 2013-2014 data from Statistics Canada).

In numbers: 633,000 self-reported sexual assaults in a year, compared to 1,357 convictions.

Ghomeshi no doubt has his fame, in part, to blame for his unusual fate. And we, Canadians, can thank his fame for giving us the rare chance to collectively take stock of how terribly we fail victims.

This is a national reckoning.

It is a trial to spotlight how alleged abusers come in all kinds of packages — even handsome and charismatic. It will represent all the women, and some men, who do not report sexual assaults to police, because they know the odds are against them.

It will challenge us to remember that all are innocent until proven guilty. And it will force us to admit, in cases of sexual assault, that ideal, coupled with a perverse bias to believe women somehow “wanted it,” has left hundreds of thousands of victims a year without justice.

If there were an easy fix, we would not need this case quite so desperately.

In the fall of 2014, when support for Ghomeshi was still high and the allegations seemed all people could talk about, the actor Lucy DeCoutere spoke to media and put her name on the record as a victim of Ghomeshi, when many were still too afraid.

“It sounds like he broke a country,” she said with incredulity. “That’s crazy.”

It is, and it’s not.

Those same statistics that make Ghomeshi’s trial so exceptional also underline how many untried cases are out there; how many victims living without recourse for what was done to them. Never mind the rest of us, who are all complicit if our justice system does not mete out justice.

It’s not only the low reporting rates (five per cent, compared to one-third for all crimes) and impunity. The rate of all violent crimes has fallen by nearly 30 per cent over the last decade, except sexual assaults. It’s unchanged.

In other words: We’re getting nowhere. Not when it comes to curbing sexual assault, or punishing it.

And so I’m grateful to the women who pressed charges against Ghomeshi, and put both him and our system on trial. Ghomeshi may be the one sitting in the chair, but today, we’re all called to court.

METRO CALL TO ACTION

#PrideTape scores fundraising goal

Hockey fans across the country are showing their true colours. What started as a modest crowdfunding effort at the University of Alberta has grown into a coast-to-coast grassroots push for greater inclusivity in sports. But there’s still more work to be done.

Hockey teams across North America could soon be taping up their sticks with pride after an Edmonton campaign passed its Kickstarter goal.

Pride Tape is an initiative of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services at the University of Alberta. It aimed to raise \$54,000 to have 10,000 rolls of the rainbow-coloured hockey tape made.

As of Sunday afternoon, more than \$70,000 had been pledged.

Kris Wells, the institute’s director, said the support has been overwhelming.

“That was great to see, and we have really been experiencing momentum for the Kickstarter campaign ever since the Oilers debuted Pride Tape at their skills competition,” he said.

The Edmonton Oilers put the tape on their sticks during their skills competition on

Jan. 24, and the team’s community foundation also gave the campaign \$8,000. Wells said that appearance led to a big surge in interest.

“It just sort of went viral all over North America,” he said, “The Oilers’ leadership has really been pivotal in the success.”

Having surpassed the goal, Wells said the additional funds are going to help get the tape in more hands.

“We’re well over what we initially hoped to raise to produce those first 10,000 rolls, so this extra funding just allows us to increase our support.”

Wells said the tape is meant to be a conversation-starter about LGBTQ issues in hockey and he’s hopeful minor leagues will think about policies or practices that might make people feel more welcome in the sport.

“It has to be more than



CONTRIBUTED

just putting the tape on your stick,” he said.

“Our goal has been to get the product created, to get it out there and distribute, and hopefully get people talking.”

Metro put out a call to readers on Friday encouraging them to have their local teams use Pride Tape, and Wells said that campaign has also led to results.

“We have seen on social media that people are asking their team.” RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Keep the momentum going! We think all of Canada’s pro and amateur hockey teams should get on board with Pride Tape. If you agree, share this story online and post on social media: #PrideTape

Did the city learn from Landsdowne? We’ll see

COLLINS’ CAPITAL

Steve Collins



Still dizzy from the big reveal on LeBreton Flats? You’re not alone.

Nearly a week after traversing the desolate tundra to the Canadian War Museum, I still struggle to recall which sweeping rooflines and modish glass facades go with which proposal to spruce up Ottawa’s long-lost neighbourhood, flattened in the ‘60s.

Amid the onslaught of proposed arenas, libraries, condos and museums, the clock started remorselessly ticking down on public input.

To the credit of the people who came out for the consultations, many were able to think on their feet and ask good questions of the proponents, who, to their credit, had decent answers, even though they were con-

strained by the rules from discussing money matters, and even from explicitly comparing the plans.

Now we’ve got until next Monday to comment on what we’ve heard and seen so far, our feedback to be summed up in a report to the NCC’s evaluation committee.

After that? Well, if I have this straight, the evaluation committee makes a recommendation to the board, which chooses the winning proponent and begins negotiations for a comprehensive agreement, which then goes to Treasury Board and cabinet.

While Mark Kristmanson, the Commission’s CEO, assured us that they’ll be “open to all comments all the way through the process,” the above doesn’t sound like it.

Once the feds pick a winner, he said, “The centre of gravity of the project will shift to the City of Ottawa, and it will go through the

regular process that the city goes through towards zoning and so forth, and there’ll be all the opportunities for public engagement through that process.”

I wish I found that more encouraging than I do. Some of us are still trying to figure out what just happened at Landsdowne Park.

Reviews are still mixed on the redevelopment, but few would call the process, the sole-sourced deal and legal skirmishes with critics, one of the city’s finer moments.

We have a reasonably responsive city hall, but technical roadblocks between decision-makers and the public are many (“Sorry, you should have brought that up at committee, we don’t let public delegations address council.”)

Mayor Jim Watson doesn’t appreciate such naysaying, and warned in last week’s state of the city address against treading “the path of cynicism”:

“It’s the path of grumbling. No matter how historic the investments we’re making or how many awards the city receives about quality of life or business-friendliness or sustainability, it will never be good enough.”

Sunny Jim urges us instead to take the path of optimism, declaring that “City building will always beat city bashing.”

We need ambition and optimism, sure, but also throwers of cold water who will keep an eye on the money and any discrepancies that might arise between the LeBreton as promised in the brochure and the one that actually lands on our doorstep.

Blessed are the bashers, for they keep the builders honest.

Steve Collins lives in Ottawa. He might also be the guy behind you on the bus, pretending not to notice you’re reading this. Act casual.



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RSP or TFSA? How to choose

NEST EGG

The keys to understanding the popular savings tools

Michelle Williams

Two of the most popular savings tools available to Canadians are the RSP (Retirement Savings Plan) and the TFSA (tax-free savings account). But how do you decide which option is best for you? First of all, it's important to understand the differences between them:

To tax or not to tax

"They're both tax-advantaged savings plans that are endorsed by the federal government, but with some real differences," says Kurt Rosentreter, a senior financial advisor at Manulife Securities and a chartered accountant in Toronto.

The RSP, around since 1957, was once the go-to savings plan for any Canadian looking to save for retirement. How much you can put into your RSP annually is directly related to your earned income: you can contribute up to 18 per cent of your previous year's earned income each year, which gets deducted from your taxable income at tax time. Whatever you don't use gets carried over to the following year.

"So there's room to build



Both RSPs and TFSAs have their advantages. Your choice will depend on your income and financial goals. ISTOCK

significant savings for retirement," says Phil Goldband, partner at G&G Partnership in Toronto.

Though you're taxed when you withdraw your RSP savings, presumably this won't be until you're retired and your income and tax bracket are lower. As such, you're pay-

ing significantly less tax on the money when you take it out than you would have paid when you made the contribution in your higher-income years.

In 2009, the federal government introduced the TFSA.

"There is no tax deduction

for your TFSA contribution like there is with an RSP contribution," explains Goldband, "however, when the money is withdrawn, the income earned comes out tax-free."

Unlike with an RSP, the amount you can contribute to your TFSA is not related to income. Everyone is allowed to

contribute the same amount: up to \$5,500 for 2016.

Making the choice

So how do you choose which of the two plans makes the most sense for your hard-earned savings?

"First, a lot depends on your income," says Rosentreter.

"The Canadian income tax system is progressive — the more you make, the higher percentage of tax you pay. The RSP offers a tax deduction for your contribution amount every year. So the higher your income, the more beneficial it is."

For lower-income earners, the RSP tax deduction isn't worth as much, since you're not paying a high percentage of tax in the first place.

"Those with lower incomes may not be getting the bang for your buck with the RSP, so the TFSA contribution can make more sense," adds Rosentreter.

But it's not just about income level.

"Generally, it makes sense for young investors to put their money into TFSAs versus RSPs," Goldband says, since they can withdraw the money any time they want without being taxed on the income earned.

For expenses like a new car, a home, tuition or a medical emergency, the flexibility of a TFSA comes in handy.

However, both savings tools are designed to serve the same goal: saving for retirement. To that end, the choice doesn't have to be between one and the other. Young and old investors alike would be wise to look at both plans and consider the advantages each one offers.

"If someone has ample cash flow, they may want to consider maximizing both the RSP and TFSA contributions each year," suggests Rosentreter.

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Will Annick and Yolanda's financial goals be met? **Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie** has only 10 weeks left to tackle the women's largest financial burdens and teach them to allocate resources.

Swimming in student debt



LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE
metromoney

THE CHALLENGE: Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie has 10 weeks left to get Annick, 24, and Yolanda, 27, to change their spending behaviours and build a nest egg while meeting their financial obligations. This week we focus on Annick.

THIS WEEK: Annick immigrated to Canada in 2010, finished her undergraduate degree in Energy Management at the University of Calgary, and now works as a property management administrator making \$35,000 per year. She's on a mission to crush her consumer debt within six months and save a \$25,000 down payment through her RRSP over the next five years.

NEXT WEEK: Yolanda learns there is such a thing as being too frugal! She is depriving herself of the small things in life that would make her happy, and must learn to build herself a "pillow" and stick to a budget so she doesn't binge shop.

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND FOUNDER OF MEVEST, A MONEY COACHING SERVICE FOR CANADIANS. FOLLOW HER @LESLEYSCORGIE

Life isn't much better here. Canadians use loans to pay for just about everything.



Annick, 24, Calgary, Alta.

NET WORTH:
\$ -**\$61,550**



As Annick struggles to stay on top of her bills, she also makes a list of her financial goals. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

THE STORY

When Annick arrived to Canada from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), she had high financial hopes. But today she joins thousands of underemployed new graduates in Alberta's tough economy. Compared to the DRC, "Life isn't much better here. Canadians use loans to pay for just about everything. Then they can't afford anything," says Annick.

Weighted down by credit card balances and student loans, Annick recently qualified for repayment assistance through Canada Student Loans, buying her six months of low principle payments of \$150 per month. She took another drastic financial step, applying for rent relief through her landlord. This request would reduce her monthly rent to \$1,200 from \$1,400. She splits this cost with her roommate.

THE LESSON

It's hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel of debt, but Annick's going to use the 60/60/60 plan. Every 60 days she will eliminate another debt, starting with her loans from friends and family because those are loaded with financial and personal anxiety. She'll use money from her second job, \$450 per month, to eliminate those quickly.

She'll then move on to her taxes followed by her credit cards. While implementing the 60/60/60 plan, she'll continue to make regular minimum payments on

\$ MONEY

A surprise

Annick worked extra hours at her second job in December and was paid double her hourly rate of \$17. She applied that 'extra' money to her furniture loan.

Assets

RRSP \$450
Total Assets: \$450

Liabilities

Student Loans \$58,650
VISA \$1,500
Mastercard \$600
Furniture loan from a friend \$250
Loan from sister \$750
Taxes owed \$250

Total Liabilities \$62,000

Net Worth (61,550)

every loan.

A common myth is that Annick can't save money while paying off her debt. But, we've discussed the benefits of using her employer's RRSP matching program. So she's signed up for a personal contribution of \$100 per month and her employer kicks in a \$50 match — free money! When Annick becomes debt free in five years, she'll have a nest egg she can use for a down payment or retirement.

FOOD

Instagram's Chef La Merde named



Mystery chef behind popular parody account revealed as Toronto's Chef Christine Flynn. CONTRIBUTED/INSTAGRAM

Hot rod tartar. Plated Pogos. Deconstructed drumsticks and gas station muffins.

For one year, "Chef Jacques La Merde" sent Instagram foodies into a gleeful tizzy. Elevating snacks from pedestrian munchies to fine art one beautifully plated dish at a time, he became known for his cheeky posts, penchant for foodie terms, over-sharing about his love life and incredible plating skills.

But who was he?

On Thursday, all was revealed. Chef Jacques La Merde — not a he but a she — is Toronto's very own: Christine Flynn, the execu-

tive chef for iQ Food Co.

"I thought it would be funny. That's all," writes Flynn in the Bon Appétit article admitting she's the force behind the account. "No deeper meaning, no hidden agendas other than making people laugh and carving out a small spot on the Internet where I could just be a giant goofball."

She writes that the account brought together her three great loves: food, art and irony.

Flynn describes the account as a side project — one with 100,000 followers — "where a bumbling, slightly hysterical chef makes 'fine-dining' food with low-brow ingredients and lovingly points out some of the more ridiculous norms of current dining trends."

But La Merde goes deeper too.

Flynn writes about a time two years ago when she felt off balance, left questioning her role in the industry after she switching jobs and moving from Nantucket to Toronto. "After months of feeling lost, creating the account, creating Jacques, made me feel like I'd got my *soigné* back," she writes. "Shooting the photos... was almost cathartic."

Fans felt something too.

"Fans seemed to admire Jacques's cluelessness and blatant disregard for culinary convention. He defied the norm, and was endlessly and enthusiastically optimistic," she writes, noting that she conversed with curious Instagrammers via direct messages, sending them career tips and restaurant recommendations.



Do you remember how hilarious it was as a kid to put Bugles on your fingers and chase your brother around?

Christine Flynn

Flynn doesn't call La Merde her alter ego, but more of a reflection of herself. They're both "loud, flawed, clumsy, romantically disastrous and a bit sloppy," she admits.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Have money for fast food? Then you have money to save



If you need help becoming a saver, start by making small changes: Every time you hit the drive-through for a burger, drop a dollar into a can you keep in the car. iSTOCK

STASH YOUR CASH

To truly save, put away more than the debt you take on

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada



One of the questions I often get from people who have watched my show is, "Are those people for real?" quickly followed by, "Don't they know they have to save something?"

Yes, the people on my show are very real; I took great pains to keep the "reality" in reality TV. And, no, people don't really think they have to save. Some think government benefits will be enough. (That may be true if you're comfortable living on about \$18,000 a year.) Others say they just can't find the money to save.

Life is expensive. I know. But saving is important. Thirty or so years ago we knew that and we saved as much as 18 per cent of our income. Since then our savings rates have plummeted. Now, on average, we're saving about five per cent of our money. But that's an average; some of us are saving nothing at all.

ing at all.

And then there are the folks who think that as long as they're stashing money away in RRSPs, TFSA or CSBs, they're doing fine. Never mind that the balances on their overdrafts, lines of credit or credit cards keep going up, they've got an automatic savings plan in place so they're okie dokie.

What they are is delusional. To be saving, you must be net positive, meaning that you must be putting away more money than you're taking on in debt. If this year you sock away \$10,000 in a TFSA but you rack up \$6,000 on your line of credit, \$3,500 on credit cards and \$500 in overdraft, you've saved absolutely nothing.

Saving is the act of taking money out of your cash flow and putting it away a date to be named later. Putting \$50 a month away in savings and spending \$50 on credit that you're not paying off in full when the bill comes in is not saving. You're pretending to save.

You know the story of the

grasshopper and the ant. Grasshoppers don't plan; ants do. Grasshoppers love their toys; ants love their freedom of choice. Grasshoppers compare themselves to others; ants measure how close they are to reaching their goals. So, are you a grasshopper or are you an ant?

If you answer "grasshopper" all is not lost. Just because you're not an ant doesn't mean you'll never be a saver. You're just going to have to try harder to overcome your natural tendency to have a great time and not think about tomorrow.

If you want to become a saver, focus on making small, manageable changes that will stick. Don't give up coffee completely. Just decide that you're going to trim back your coffee habit by 30 per cent a week and send all the money you're not spending on your caffeine habit to a high interest savings account. Hey, if you can find the money for takeout coffee, you can find the money to save too.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

18%

Thirty or so years ago we saved as much as 18 per cent of our income. Now, on average, we're saving about five per cent of our money.

BEREAVEMENT

Still-grieving Céline returns to Las Vegas

Just weeks after Céline Dion lost her husband René Angélil and older brother Daniel to cancer, the pop superstar will soon return to work.

A celebration of Angélil's life is slated to take place in Las Vegas on Wednesday, and after having little time to mourn privately, Dion is scheduled to resume her residency at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace on Feb. 23.

Angélil had been battling a recurrence of throat cancer, which he was first diagnosed with in 1998. He had three sons with Dion, who took a year-long hiatus to care for him before he died.

But even for those like Dion who know the loss of their spouse is imminent, the experience isn't any less painful when their partner dies — an experience Carole Brody Fleet knows all too well.

In 1998, she had just left the legal profession to embark on a new career while enjoying a "normal life" with her police officer husband and their nine-year-old daughter.

Any sense of normalcy was shattered when Brody Fleet's husband was diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. He died just two years later. Four



Céline Dion. GETTY IMAGES

months after Mike's death, her dad passed away.

"People say things like: 'You knew it was coming ... But there's no way to be prepared for death,'" said Brody Fleet, an author and grief recovery expert.

Brody Fleet said work can be therapeutic for the bereaved. But she also hopes that the singer takes time away from the spotlight to cope with her grief.

"It's incredibly difficult," said Brody Fleet, whose new book *When Bad Things Happen to Good Women* is due out in April. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Finally, a thaw in chilly Mr. Robot

THE SHOW: Mr. Robot, Season 1, Episode 7 (Shomi)
THE MOMENT: The Shrug

Security expert Angela (Portia Doubleday) is seated in the tasteful study of corporate honcho Terry (Bruce Altman), making a deal: she'll fix his legal woes, if he describes what happened in a boardroom 20 years ago when he and other executives decided to ignore the treatment of hazardous waste in her township. He complies, nonchalantly.

"So you were drunk, eating shrimp cocktail, and it was raining when you decided my mother would die?" she asks. He looks at the ground.

"Did any of it ever give you, or anyone, pause?" she asks.

"Yeah. Sure," he replies. "But then you go home, and you have dinner. And you wake up the next morning." He shrugs.

That shrug, with all it implies, is the first moment of this series that made me feel real emotion. Oh, it's a fascinating show — brainy, original, well-made. But baby, it's chilly.

It revolves around the interior monologues of Elliot (Rami Malek, excellent, both vulnerable and scary), a brilliant hacker with social anxiety dis-



Portia Doubleday, left, and Rami Malek star in Mr. Robot. CONTRIBUTED

order, who disdains people for not seeing what he sees: that we've signed our lives away to sneering corporate overlords. He plots with Mr. Robot (Christian Slater), an anarchist, to bring the system down. (Again with the villainous super-rich!

They're everywhere!)

Interior monologues are supposed to pull a listener in — give us insights, make us empathic. Elliot's are clever and full of truths. But because they're more about shadowy conspiracies than about illum-

inating Elliot's soul, they keep me at a distance. I admire them. But I don't feel them.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

According to multiple reports, including ESPN, receiver Calvin Johnson has told the Detroit Lions he will retire



Journeyman lives up to all-star billing

NHL

Scott voted tourney MVP after scoring a pair of goals

Fans made enforcer John Scott an NHL all-star by voting him captain of the Pacific Division.

Then they made him tournament MVP.

Scott scored twice during the league's new 3-on-3 all-star tournament, bringing cheers from fans and smiles from teammates, and was named MVP as a write-in candidate after leading the Pacific to a 1-0 win in the championship game Sunday night.

The career journeyman was not listed among the three MVP candidates for a Twitter vote late in the final game, but fans took it upon themselves to select him once again, casting their vote for the six-foot-eight forward with five goals in 285 career games.

"I'm sure he won over a lot of people, and got even more fans," Chicago forward Patrick Kane said of Scott.

Fans at Bridgestone Arena booed the MVP options and yelled for Scott. Teammates lifted him on their shoulders while fans chanted "MVP!" and then Scott was announced as the winner and presented with a Honda Pilot Touring SUV.

Scott then posed with his teammates behind their \$1-million check.

"I think it's the best possible outcome right?" Scott said. "We had a good weekend.... We left winning, so it was great."



John Scott was cheered all weekend long in Nashville. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

+ SKILLS COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

Red Wings forward Dylan Larkin won not only the title of fastest skater at this event but set the record for the fastest lap around a full rink. He topped Mike Gartner's time of 13.386 seconds in 1996 — months before Larkin was born.

Hometown favourite Predators captain Shea Weber won the hardest-shot at 108.1 m.p.h.

P.K. Subban — channeling his inner Jaromir Jagr with a long-flowing wig — won the breakaway event — decided by Twitter fan voting.

The NHL changed the format after last year's all-star game featured 92 shots and a combined 29 goals for the biggest offensive display in the showcase's

60-year history. This time, these all-stars combined for 116 shots and 23 goals.

This event looked much more like the hockey the league

plays the rest of the season. Their inspiration was the 3-on-3 overtime approach for a tournament pitting the four divisions against each other in 20-minute games. The winners of the first two games advanced to a third-period championship.

"I broke a better sweat than last year for sure," Philadelphia Flyers and Metropolitan Division forward Claude Giroux said.

Anaheim forward Corey Perry scored the lone goal in the championship game at 3:38 of the second period. Two 10-minute periods were played in each of the three games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Djokovic romps way to 11th Slam

Novak Djokovic maintained his perfect streak in six Australian Open finals with a 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory Sunday that consigned Andy Murray to a fifth defeat in championship deciders at Melbourne Park.

Djokovic equalled Roy Emerson's long-standing record of six Australian Open titles and increased his career haul to 11 Grand Slam titles, including four of the last five, to join Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg at No. 5 on the all-time list.

"First of all I need to pay the respect to Andy and his team. Tough match, tough luck tonight," Djokovic said. "You're a great cham-

pion, great friend, very committed to this sport. I'm sure in the future you're going to have many opportunities."

Murray became only the second man to lose five finals at one major — Ivan Lendl lost five and won three U.S. Open finals in the 1980s.

On Saturday, Angelique Kerber upset Serena Williams 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 to win the women's title to claim a major title for the first time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



SURVEY

Players don't trust NFL with health

An Associated Press survey of 100 NFL players finds that fewer than half think the league's clubs, coaches and team doctors have the athletes' best interests at heart when it comes to health and safety.

The divide between older and younger players is striking.

Barely a third of the players with at least four years of experience, 35 per cent, told The Associated Press they trust that their interests are being protected. That is far lower than the 71 per cent of players in Years 1-3 who hold that

1,672

The number of injuries during 2015 regular-season games that resulted in missed time, which works out to roughly one for each player in the league.

positive outlook.

Players from all 32 teams were surveyed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Calgary lugers win bronze

Canada claimed a bronze medal in the team relay event Sunday on the final day of the luge world championships.

The new-look Calgarian relay team featuring 20-year-old Mitch Malyk, Alex Gough along with Tristan Walker and Justin Smith captured their first ever medal together.

The Germans captured the World Championship title on their home track. Latvia won the silver.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.S. wins women's jr. curling title, Manitoba men on top

Mary Fay's clutch eighth-end draw clinched the women's title for Nova Scotia at the Canadian junior curling championships.

Fay's shot broke open a 5-5 tie as Nova Scotia went on to a 9-5 win over British Columbia's Sarah Daniels in Sunday's final.

In the men's final, Manitoba's Matt Dunstone cruised to an 11-4 win over Northern Ontario's Tanner Horgan. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Gary Bettman GETTY IMAGES

Bettman sticking it out until 2022

Gary Bettman said his relationship with the union has never been better.

Perhaps that's why he is willing to stick around as NHL commissioner into the next decade.

Bettman signed a contract through 2022, he confirmed in an interview Sunday on the NHL Network before the all-star game.

"This happened many, many

months ago," Bettman said.

He has been the league's leader since 1993 when it had 24 teams. Now, it has 30 franchises and there may be one or two more in a couple of years.

After Bettman's state-of-the-league news conference Saturday, he said the World Cup of Hockey and the 3-on-3 format for overtime and the all-star game are "great examples" of

how well he and NHL Players' Association executive director Don Fehr are getting along.

"Don has brought stability and strength to the union, and that's a good thing," Bettman said. "He's been a good working partner. That doesn't mean we agree on everything, but we're communicating well and working things out."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECIPE Artichoke, Gruyère and Spinach Savoury Bread Pudding



PHOTO: MAMA VISNEYE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If a frittata and bread pudding had a baby it would be this savoury dish of deliciousness.

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 40 minutes

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp butter, divided
- 2 shallots, chopped
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 2 thick slices of crusty country bread cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 cups packed chopped spinach
- 1 1/2 cups grated Gruyère
- 14 oz can artichokes hearts, drained and chopped
- 1/4 cup milk
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 1 tsp fresh chopped basil

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Divide

Tbsp of butter between four 10-oz ramekins. Place them on a baking sheet in the oven on the middle rack. Allow butter to melt. Remove baking sheet from oven and grease the ramekins using the melted butter. Set aside.

2. In a medium skillet, heat 1 Tbsp of the butter. Add the shallots, salt and pepper. Cook until they soften, about 3 minutes.

3. In a large mixing bowl, toss the bread, spinach and cheese. Add the shallots, artichoke hearts, milk and eggs and mix. Sprinkle in the basil.

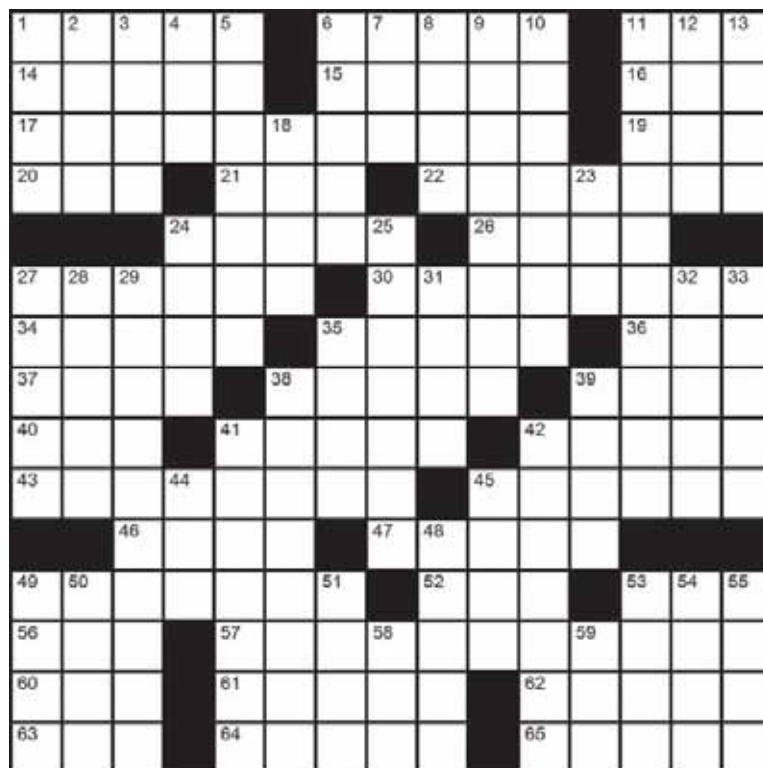
4. Spoon the mixture into prepared ramekins. Place the baking sheet of ramekins back in the oven and cook until golden brown, about 25 minutes.

5. Remove baking sheet from the oven and allow ramekins to cool for 10 to 15 minutes. Serve in ramekins or run a paring knife around the edges to loosen the pudding and turn out onto plates to serve.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. The Rockies, for example
6. Invites to one's pent-house suite: 2 wds.
11. Ms. Leoni
14. What the Toonie of Canada is, quite simply: 2 wds.
15. Kitchen appliances company
16. Grampus
17. Hair salon offerings for '90s pop stars: 2 wds.
19. "Ick."
20. __ dollar bill
21. Howdies
22. Ruin
24. Tears For Fears member Mr. Smith, and namesakes
26. Tandoor-baked creation
27. Peace of mind
30. Other word in #29-Down's answer
34. Where Sidney Crosby's sport is played: 2 wds.
35. "American Pie" Chevy-driving spot
36. Status __
37. To, archaically
38. Discovered through the grapevine
39. Roadside border
40. Pecan or almond
41. Covered in thicket/wooded
42. Migratory birds, for example
43. Scatter
45. Repatee
46. Retro toy, __ Bat

47. Henhouse
49. "101 Dalmatians" (1996) villainess
52. AC/DC song
53. Brit. fliers
56. 'Racket' suffix
57. Nova Scotia hometown of hockey star Sidney

- Crosby: 2 wds.
60. Cornwall's country, curly
61. Pointed arch
62. Furious
63. Fifth musical note, variantly
64. To-the-North-Sea river in Germany

65. Birchbark vessel

DOWN

1. River float
2. Land size
3. Lunch hour
4. Soldiers
5. Gush about

6. Possessed, archaically
7. Li'l quantity
8. Remarked
9. Like a story yet to be written
10. The North-west __
11. Losing-lots-of-

- blood emergency bandaging
12. Therefore
13. "... Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray Cyrus
18. Cork's country
23. 19th Greek alphabet letter
24. Irene's "Fame" (1980) role
25. The talking human
27. Circular
28. Yawnsville
29. Team #57-Across plays Center for (First word here ...more at #30-Across)
31. Song in '65's "The Sound of Music": "Climb __ Mountain"
32. Health care professional
33. Solemn
35. Fewer
38. Antique time-keeper
39. Penny
41. Herd member with a sound maker: 2 wds.
42. __ bypass surgery
44. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" (2015) character, __ Dameron
45. __ fide
48. Additional
49. Third letters
50. __, Nevada
51. Ms. MacGraw's
53. Horse coat hue
54. Car
55. Costless
58. Dusk
59. Sports or Underwire

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your ability to charm your way into other people's affections will take you far. You'll get your way at home and work by telling what they want to hear. It may not be true but it makes them feel good.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Move fast to get ahead of your rivals. Certain people seem determined to prove that they are the ones most deserving of promotion but they will only succeed if you let them.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You've been avoiding a task you think will be unpleasant but if you tackle it today it really won't be so bad. Friends and family will help if you let them know that you need it.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Work-related issues won't be the trial they have been lately. You will make a positive impression on employers and other important people today, simply by being yourself.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Others will go out of their way to do things for you over the next few days, and you must take advantage. Your instincts tell you it won't always be as easy as this.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
What you have said or done has only made matters worse. Of course, if you had listened to the advice given to you by a friend earlier on you could have saved yourself a lot of bother.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
It's not worth trying to control every situation. At some point you will realize it is better to let fate take its chosen course than struggle to steer it in a direction more to your liking.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You'll feel good about yourself today and because of that you will be more open to the world. Wherever you go and whatever you do, stay calm. Minor annoyances are a fact of life.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Be fair in your dealings and give others the benefit of the doubt if they stray from the straight and narrow. A new love affair is possible this week, or an existing one will be more fun than it has been.

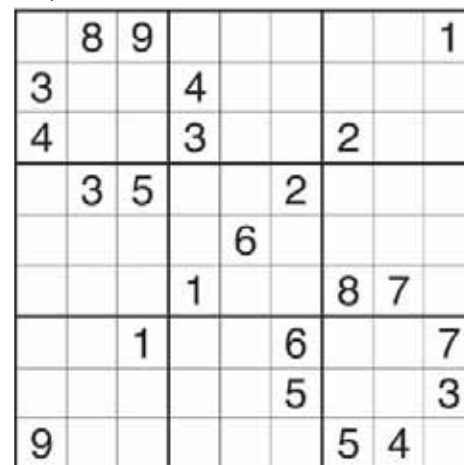
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Not everyone is as logical as you and some people can be remarkably sensitive, so don't criticize too harshly. There's a way to break unpleasant news, a way that calls for a tact and understanding that you must learn.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Get away from the daily grind and recharge your batteries in a more tranquil environment. It's a great time to take a short vacation but if that is not possible at least don't tax yourself with new chores and responsibilities.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
There is a danger that you will create problems that need not exist. The most useful advice anyone can give you now is to stop pushing so hard.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

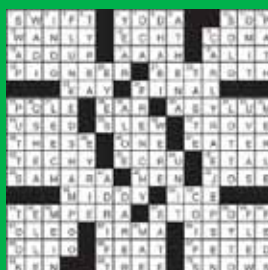


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FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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OVER 1400 CANADIANS OWN A PROPERTY IN ECUADOR

WHY ECUADOR?

Starting in 2010 with the sale of land lots on the Ecuadorian Pacific coast, HolaEcuador, a Canadian company is now into its sixth year offering diversified real estate opportunities and a wide array of services. Every year, the team helps hundreds of Canadians acquire property in South America.

Comfortable year-round climate, a low cost of living (about three times lower than in Canada), an incredible diversity of natural scenery and an efficient and affordable healthcare system with benefits for retirees make Ecuador increasingly attractive to North Americans looking to enjoy a second home under the sun or to retire and relocate to this marvellous part of the world.

80% SOLD

"The development on which we're currently working is a beautiful 130-acre property that sits directly in front of the Pacific Ocean", states Gordon Poole, HolaEcuador's vice-president of design and construction. "It is located 60 kilometers south of Manta. Of the 1,700 lots on the development, there are only about 300 left unsold", he adds.

"Infrastructure is coming along quickly, and construction is well underway, with 150 homes completed and many more starting this year. A beautiful outdoor sports facility is now operational, businesses are beginning to set up shop and the parks are simply breathtaking. A few years from now, this little slice of heaven will be the envy of investors who didn't seize the opportunity", says Poole.

WELL-KEPT SECRET

For now, Ecuador remains a relatively well-kept secret. Properties are much more affordable than in similar destinations. "Prices reflect what was available in Costa Rica 15 years ago, but in a country where first-rate and modern infrastructure is already in place," says Poole.

"The country is amongst the safest in Latin America and the currency is the US dollar, which is very reassuring for investors," adds Poole.

Turnkey home prices on HolaEcuador's Pacific coast development start at Can\$127,500¹, for a two-bedroom, one-bathroom house including land lot.



ECUADOR

- Best country in the world for retirement – International Living, 2009-2013, 2015
- 13th in the world for healthcare efficiency – Bloomberg Magazine, 2014
- Cost of living 3 times lower
- Very accessible residency status
- No hurricanes
- One of Latin America's safest countries

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Overlooking the boardwalk and a spectacular 12 kilometres stretch of pristine beach. Starting at Can\$249,000¹. They're going fast!

TURNKEY HOMES



Only a few minutes' walk to the beach and all the amenities, a wide array of turnkey models starting at Can\$127,500¹.

Why HolaEcuador?

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To make sure you fully own your deed outright

For personalised service and guidance

To choose an ethical company that works in harmony with the people of the region, and in accordance with the laws and rules of the country.

To learn more

HolaEcuador is offering free informational seminars in several locations across Canada. These sessions are the perfect opportunity to discover more about the advantages of property ownership, living and investing in Ecuador. In addition, you'll become familiar with the many attributes of this real estate development as well as the essentials of property acquisition in this beautiful country in Latin America.

Space is limited. Prospective attendees are encouraged to register in advance with the local sales representative.

Free informational seminars

ORLEANS: Sat., Feb. 6, 1:30 p.m.
Quality Inn Orleans, 3363 St. Joseph Blvd

GATINEAU (in French): Tue., Feb. 9, 7 p.m.
Quality Inn & Suites, 111 Bellehumeur St.

» **LIMITED SPACE, PLEASE RESERVE:**
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¹ Prices converted in Canadian dollars - subject to change without notice.

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